(b) whether the loan for revamping the unit has been finalised with ICICI; and

(c) whether reference of HFCL as a whole Group of Ministers will harm the revamping process of Namrup Unit directly and indirectly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BARTA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Namrup Revamp Project approved by the Government in 1997 at an estimated investment of Rs. 350; crore is under implementation w.e.f. 2.11.1998 and is expected to be completed by Februrary, 2002. With a view to ensure timely completion of the project, the Government has been making necessary budgetary provision and an amount of Rs. 131.69 crore has been released so far. A provision of Rs. 80 has been made during 2001-02.

(b) The proposal for demerger of the Namrup Unit from HFCL into a separate corporate entity, which would facilitate securing of term loans from the banks/ financial institutions is to be submitted to the competent authority for consideration shortly.

(c) No, Sir.

Outlay for Fertilizers

653. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay for fertilizers for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total outlay for new/expansion urea projects of PSUs Cooperative Societies;

(c) how much has been utilised by the Department of Fertilizers till date;

(d) whether there was low utilisation;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether major new/expansion urea projects of PSUs Cooperative Societies have been cleared; and

(g) if so, whether the entire outlay for them would be fully utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI BARTA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The approved outlay

for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997–2002), for the Department of Fertilizers, is Rs. 11013 crore. Against this, total expenditure of Fertilizers, is Rs. 801.30 crore, Rs. 604.25 crore and Rs. 569 crore was incurred during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, respectively. The new/substantial expansion urea projects of PSUs/Co-operative Societies account for a total outlay of Rs. 7566.25 crore during the Ninth Plan.

(d) to (g) There was low utilisation of plan so far mainly because of non-implementation of the following major new/expansion urea projects of PSUs/Co-operative Societies, which account for a total outlay of Rs. 4825 crore:

(i) Expansion of Hazira plant of KRIBHCO in Gujarat.

(ii) A new urea plant to be set up by KRIBHCO at the existing site of FCI's Gorakhpur Plant in Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) Expansion of Thal Plant of RCF in Maharashtra.

(iv) A grassroots urea-plant to be set up by IFFCO at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.

In April 1999, Government had given "in principle' approval to these projects, subject to investment appraisal of these projects by the Public Investment Board (PIB). Investment appraisal of all these four urea projects was undertaken by the PIB in July, 1999. In June, 2000, a proposal for taking a final investment decision on these projects was considered and deferred by the Government. This proposal was formulated taking into account the observations of the PIB regarding the viability of the projects, desirability of encouraging use of liquified natural gas as feedstock to reduce the incidenec of subsidy and the needs to stagger implementation of the proposed projects due to limited demand supply gap forecasts.

As these projects have not been taken up for implementation till date, the total outlay for this purpose is not likely to be fully utilised.

Revival and restructuring of fertilizer companies

654. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Group of Ministers for revival and restructuring of four fertilizer companies, besides formulating overall fertilizer policy;